

Neighborhood Improvements



NIP WORKS!

The Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) launched in January of 2000 has delivered extraordinary results. NIP has decreased litter, improved the public right-of-way, and enhanced community relations throughout the City of Cincinnati! The program is designed to take a "proactive approach in the maintenance of the City's public right-of-ways by finding and fixing conditions before they become complaints," says Ed Valeska, the City's NIP coordinator.

The goal of the program is to tailor solutions that are focused on the needs and concerns of communities. "Our goal is to partner with the community to make real results and tangible improvements that they can see and experience daily," says Daryl Brock, Director of the Department of Public Services. Since its inception, the NIP program has been a partnership opportunity for City agencies and citizens to identify priority areas. As a result, Public Services crews have collected litter and removed graffiti from streets and other public property.

During 2004, NIP's proactive approach in addressing maintenance issues resulted in 2,490 pothole repairs, removal of 1,133 yards of litter, and disposal of 1,118 tires. The program also removed 1,785 yards of debris and covered 2,799 curb miles through its street sweeping initiative.

HOW NIP WORKS!

A community representative is contacted

two weeks prior to the scheduled NIP inspection as a reminder. The Community Council determines community priorities, after which Public Service crews and various other City employees swing into action! A visual inspection is then made by a NIP inspector of each neighborhood street. The NIP inspector as well as community residents identify a wide range of maintenance issues during the visual inspection.

A detailed work program is developed and referrals are made to the appropriate city department to address curb repair, abandoned vehicles, vacant buildings, graffiti removal, and illegal signage. The Department of Public Services is operating the NIP program from March through December 2004 and again from March through December 2005. During the two-year period, Public Service crews spend approximately one week in each neighborhood.

BE A PART OF THE NIP WORKS TEAM!

Stephanie Sunderland of Northside says "without the program we would not have a voice to get the many things accomplished in our neighborhood. The Department of Public Services has quickly responded to our concerns regarding illegal dumping hot spots and graffiti. I have been impressed with both the level and degree of service.

It feels good that Northside is a valued community partner and that we are part of the decision-making process." For more information about NIP WORKS!, contact the

Customer Service Center at 591-6000 or email the Department of Public Services directly at customerservice.publicservices@cincinnati-oh.gov.



Queen City Avenue before NIP services.



Busy Queen City Avenue after NIP services.

"The NIP program allows the City to find and fix conditions before they become complaints."